

Warren Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2011

Present: Jane Harrison, Helen Hawkinson, Kurt Jamiel, Bob Rutkiewicz and David Weed

Absent: Butch Lombardi, Diane Warren

Chair: Kurt Jamiel

Next Meeting: November 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Kurt Jamiel. A motion to accept the minutes of the September 19, 2011 meeting as ammended was moved by Helen, seconded by Bob and approved unanimously.

Budget report – Helen reported that, as we have had no new expenses, we have the same amount as reported last month, \$1,155.91, in our account.

Correspondence: Jane received a packet of amendments to the town code the section of the Town Code which lists passive recreation sites and conservation areas. She noted that it does not list Fatima Drive. Jane would like to talk with Dave Frerichs to get clarification about the designation of "passive sites" and "conservation areas." Helen also noted that one cannot erect any permanent structure, including tents and sheds and wondered if that includes benches and planters. Dave suggested that here should be passive and active recreation areas as well as conservation areas. Should Baker Street be added to Company Street? What is the definition of a Passive Recreation Area? In any case, we need to add Patterson, Parker,

Fatima, and others. Jane will check the plat numbers and get back to us at the next meeting.

Old Business:

1. Beautification:

Rt. 114 entrance to Town - Helen goes by every day. The area was dry so she watered, and then it rained. They are doing well now. We should speak with Joey DePasquale whose son cleaned the area to see if he wants to adopt the spot. We will wait to hear from him.

Memorial Tree at Town Beach – Still no bill or plaque. Dave will ask Judy.

Fatima Drive Park – No discussion.

Company Street Waterfront Overlook – The Trails Advisory Committee is putting the Company Street project on their agenda for Nov. 15th at 3:30 at the USDA office in Warwick. The Trails Advisory Committee is the grant-making entity funding this project. The Company St neighbors have been notified and intend to attend the meeting. The plan that Caroline Wells submitted to the Trails Advisory committee contains steps to the water. Tony Guido drew two plans, one with steps and one without steps to the water, both of which went to Caroline at the Town Planning Office, and she sent the plans with steps to the Trails Advisory Committee for funding, rather

than the Conservation Committee plans which did not contain steps. A small oversight: There was no instruction from the Commission to Caroline to disregard the Plan with steps. Kurt also received feedback from the residents. They said that they would like to have steps for a kayak entry point. The \$3600 allocated would not include the steps, but Kurt will go to the meeting and will suggest that the stairs be included if the budget will allow.

2. Storm water basins - Bob has heard nothing about the topo maps.

4. Palmer River conservation easement – Butch was not present to report.

5. Plat 13C lot 560 rezoning request from R10 to B –

Mr. Avila has asked to have the area rezoned, but it may not come up. If it's on the agenda, Jane will send a letter objecting.

5. Long range plan -

Our Annual Report of Activities lists Beautification, Education, Habitat Restoration, Advocacy, Compliance, and Outreach as the categories in which we work. It was determined that this is a sufficient outline for planning purposes. Kurt suggested that we should add "Protection" as an activity that could include storm drain signage.

New Business

1. Old Warren Marina -

Kurt got an anonymous call about the seawall at the end of Baker Street where construction was occurring. He found that there was unapproved work on the sea wall and called CRMC. He also learned that the group also had a violation in 2003. The enforcement officer is Laura Miguel. We don't need to issue any letters but Kurt will to call CRMC to get their response in writing.

2. Parker Avenue –

Someone called Kurt concerned that there was a fence on Parker Avenue blocking the right of way. Jane found that it was a public right of way on our brochure. Kurt suggested that we inform the Harbor Commission that this is a right of way and that the fence be removed. Dave will send the site map on-line to the Harbor Commission.

Commissioners' Concerns:

Kurt was informed by Laura Miguel that CRMC filed a motion with the court to have a court owner to remove the illegal dock and all of the material on the Kickemuit just south of the Broken Bridge. The hearing is set for October 25th. Kurt will follow up with CRMC in writing.

Dave reported that Hugh Cole Well sign, which was vandalized and removed again, will be bolted to the stone and a sign made saying "this plaque is not metal and has no resale value" will be placed nearby.

Helen suggested that we think of an educational program on some aspect of conservation for the coming year. She also suggested that we could get a group on Earth Day to glue the "no dumping" decals on the remaining storm drains. Jane will look to see how much is left to be done and will put this on the January agenda.

Helen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., Bob seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Weed, Secretary